



JUDICIAL LEARNING CENTER- YOU BE THE JUDGE

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

LESSON DURATION: 1- 90 Minute Block or
2- 45 Minute Periods

Standards:

SS12.1.1 Analyze unique freedoms, rights, and responsibilities of living in a democratic society and explain their interrelationships.

SS12.1.5 Demonstrate an understanding of the structures of both the United States and Wyoming Constitutions.

SS12.6.1 Analyze, evaluate, and/or synthesize multiple sources of information in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.



Relevant Subject Areas:

- Civics
- Current World Affairs
- Government
- History

Materials Needed:

- Device with Internet Access (Laptop, Cell Phone, iPad, etc.)
- “You Be The Judge” Worksheet (Attached)
- Pen/Pencil
- Digital or Paper Copy of the Wyoming Constitution (available at http://www.uwyo.edu/robertshistory/wyoming_constitution_full_text.htm)

Lesson objective:

Students will analyze the unique rights of Wyoming citizens living in a democratic society. Students will apply their understanding of individual and collective rights, as defined by Wyoming Constitutions, to scenarios presented in “You Be the Judge.”

Procedure:

Bold Font: Directions for teacher

Regular Font: Dialogue for teacher

Italics: Answers

NOTE: It is highly recommended that you assign partners for this assignment. This will increase student conversation and engagement with the material. If you choose not to assign partners, be sure to have a class discussion at the end to talk about what students decided and why.

1. **Introduction:** Today we’re going to take a look at three different cases that a judge might hear: a criminal case, a divorce, and a dispute between a landlord and a tenant. We’re going to start by looking at parts of the Wyoming Constitution and identifying the rights people have in the state of Wyoming. Then, you are going to have the opportunity to listen to three cases and make a ruling.

2. **Pass out copies of the Wyoming Constitution (or provide the link to the Wyoming Constitution online) and the You Be the Judge Worksheet packet (see below).**

3. You will start by identifying the rights of the accused that are defined in the Wyoming Constitution. Then you’ll have the opportunity to hear your first case. There are four video clips in the case. In the first clip, District Judge Cranfill will give you an overview of the case and the important issues. Then, you’ll hear from three parties who have an interest in the case. In your packet, there is space for you to record the most important information. You’ll use this information to make and defend your ruling.



4. Each case follows a similar format. I'll be here to help you find information and to bounce ideas off of. As you work, be sure to pay close attention to the facts of each case and make your ruling accordingly.
5. **Show students how to locate information in the Wyoming Constitution. (The Wyoming Constitution is divided into Articles and Sections. Students will be looking at various Sections in Articles 1 and 5.)**
6. **Allow students time to work. Support students to ensure understanding and critical thinking.**
7. **During the last 15 minutes of class, go over worksheet packet answers with students (see key below).**
8. **Closure:** Today you had the opportunity to look at three different court cases and to learn a little bit more about Wyoming's judicial system. Let's wrap up with a quick review:
- What is the difference between a criminal and a civil case? *criminal cases occur when someone is accused of breaking a law; civil cases occur when two parties have a disagreement that they want settled by a court (only one party has to agree to a court proceeding)*
 - What do "appellate" and "original" jurisdiction mean? *a court with "appellate" jurisdiction hears cases on appeal; a court with "original" jurisdiction is the first court that gets to hear a case*
 - What are some of the rights that the "accused" has in Wyoming? How are these rights similar to or different than rights that any American citizen has? *right to a trial, a trial by jury, bail, reasonable punishment, etc. These rights are modelled on the US Bill of Rights, so they are very similar to the rights that any American citizen enjoys.*

Assessment:

The Attached Worksheet can be used as a formative or summative assessment. Use the worksheet key and/or formative assessment to evaluate student learning. If appropriate, include a summative assessment question on the next unit test/quiz to assess learning and retention.

Possible Extensions:

Hold a class debate on one or more of the cases. Divide students into groups based on their rulings, and have them defend their rulings with the goal of trying to convince other students to change their mind.

Plan a visit to the interactive Judicial Learning Center:

2301 Capitol Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Contact: Matt Swift, State Law Librarian
Wyoming State Law Library
Phone: 307-777-8549



Name: _____

Wyoming Constitution: Rights of the Accused

Part 1: *The Wyoming Constitution specifies several rights for those **accused of a crime**. For each section of the Wyoming Constitution below, list one (1) right that an accused person has.*

Article 1, Section 4:

Article 1, Section 6:

Article 1, Section 9:

Article 1, Section 10:

Article 1, Section 11:

Article 1, Section 14:

Article 1, Section 15:

Part 2: *The Wyoming Constitution specifies who can hear criminal cases. The first court to hear a case has “Original Jurisdiction.” If a party dislikes a court’s ruling, that party can try to appeal. Courts that can hear appeals have “Appellate Jurisdiction.” Read Article 5, Section 2 and Article 5, Section 10 of the Wyoming Constitution.*

Which courts have original jurisdiction for criminal cases?

Which courts have appellate jurisdiction for criminal cases?



Desperate Measures

Part 3: Now go to <http://jlc.wyo.gov/Interactives/YouBeTheJudge/index.html> and play “Desperate Measures.” In the space below, record your notes for each part of the video. Write down the information that you think is most important. Then, record and defend your decision.

Case Overview: Judge Cranfill

Presentence Report: Probation Officer

Victim/Witness: Store Clerk

Character Witness: Mrs. Wolf (wife)

My Sentence & Justification



Wyoming Constitution: Civil Suits

Part 4: *The Wyoming Constitution specifies who has the right to use the court system. Read Article 1, Section 8.*

Who has the right to use the Wyoming Court system for civil (non-criminal) suits?

Who has the right to sue the state of Wyoming?

Distant Relatives

Part 5: *Now go to <http://jlc.wyo.gov/Interactives/YouBeTheJudge/index.html> and play “Distant Relatives.” In the space below, record your notes for each part of the video. Write down the information that you think is most important. Then, record and defend your decision.*

Case Overview: Judge Cranfill

Guardian Ad Litem Report

Mona (Mother)

Jeff (Father)

My Ruling & Justification



Slippery Decisions

Part 6: Now go to <http://jlc.wyo.gov/Interactives/YouBeTheJudge/index.html> and play “Slippery Decisions.” In the space below, record your notes for each part of the video. Write down the information that you think is most important. Then, record and defend your decision.

Case Overview: Judge Cranfill

Tenant

Landlord

Neighbor

My Ruling & Justification



Answer Key

Answer Key: Wyoming Constitution: Rights of the Accused

Part 1: *The Wyoming Constitution specifies several rights for those **accused of a crime**. For each section of the Wyoming Constitution below, list one (1) right that an accused person has.*

Article 1, Section 4: no unreasonable searches or seizures (warrant or probable cause required)

Article 1, Section 6: due process of law (the steps for being charged, tried, and sentenced)

Article 1, Section 9: trial by jury

Article 1, Section 10: can defend self in court, have a lawyer, face accusers in court, speedy trial

Article 1, Section 11: no self-incrimination (can't be forced to testify against one's self)

Article 1, Section 14: right to bail in most cases

Article 1, Section 15: punishment has to be humane

Part 2: *The Wyoming Constitution specifies who can hear criminal cases. The first court to hear a case has "Original Jurisdiction." If a party dislikes a court's ruling, that party can try to appeal. Courts that can hear appeals have "Appellate Jurisdiction." Read Article 5, Section 2 and Article 5, Section 10 of the Wyoming Constitution.*

Which courts have original jurisdiction for criminal cases? district courts

Which courts have appellate jurisdiction for criminal cases? Wyoming Supreme Court

Part 3: *Answers will vary*

Answer Key: Wyoming Constitution: Civil Suits

Part 4: *The Wyoming Constitution specifies who has the right to use the court system. Read Article 1, Section 8.*

Who has the right to use the Wyoming Court system for civil (non-criminal) suits? anyone who has had injury done to them

Who has the right to sue the state of Wyoming? this is determined by the state legislature

Part 5: *Answers will vary*

Part 6: *Answers will vary*

